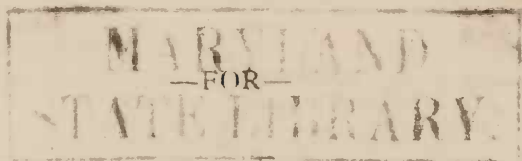


ANNUAL REPORT

—OF THE—

INSPECTOR OF MINES



Allegany and Garrett Counties

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1897.



THE DAILY NEWS CO.,
JOB PRINTING AND BLANK BOOK MANUFACTURERS,
CUMBERLAND, MD.

1898

REPORT OF MINE INSPECTOR.

FROSTBURG, MD., December 31 1897.

*To His Excellency Lloyd Lowndes,
Governor of Maryland:*

Sir—As required by the Act of the Assembly of 1878, Chapter 157, I have the honor to submit herewith my annual report of mining operations in Allegany and Garrett Counties for the year ending December, 31, 1897.

There were five fatal accidents during the year, one less than in the preceding year. This year's output of coal exceeds that of last by about 220,000 tons and is the largest in the history of the region. This increased output was attended by one less fatal accident, as before stated, than in the year previous, a fact which should be a source of gratification, for it is one which goes to show that scientific methods are utilized in mining, haulage, ventilation and drainage. The results here in this and other respects will stand comparison with any region.

There have been some improvements made at some of the mines which I deem worthy of notice as follows:

The Consolidation Coal company at Ocean No. 1 has installed four new boilers, 80 horse power each, and a boiler house is being built over them. When completed it is contemplated to move the blacksmith and carpenter shops into the present boiler house. This increase of boiler power is intended to supply steam for a large air compressor which will supply power to operate the pumps now taking steam from underground boilers. This will admit of an increase in the pumping capacity and at the same time the removal of the underground boilers.

During the latter part of the year a heading was driven from this mine into the submerged workings of the George's Creek Coal and Iron Company, draining the water therefrom and leading it into Georges Creek through the tunnel at Midland. This was an especially creditable engineering feat, the heading reaching the desired point without being an inch out of the way.

At Ocean No. 3 the mouth of the mine has been retimbered for a distance of 200 feet. A drilled well was sunk and furnished with a Pohle device for lifting the water into the tank from which the boilers are supplied. This gave ample supply of water during the dry weather.

At Ocean No. 3½ a similar well, fitted with a Pohle device, was put in with equal success.

Ocean No. 7, opened during the year has now reached a daily capacity of 850 tons. The opening consists of two drifts extending southward from the valley of Wright's Run. The upper drift, through which it is only intended to bring the coal in its immediate neighborhood, is timbered and connected with the tracks leading to the tippie by a gravity plane. The lower drift, through which it is intended to bring the large body of coal lying to the Southward, is 16 feet wide, laid with a double track and arched with stone and brick until the solid Strata are reached. The entire plant is laid out on a large scale to admit of indefinite expansion should the demand for coal warrant it. Six dwelling houses have been erected by the Company for the use of employees and about twenty have been erected or are in process of erection, by employees to whom the company has leased lots.

At the Pumping Shaft three new boilers of 80 horse power each have been installed and a duplex condensing pump, having a capacity of 2500 gallons per minute, is being built for use in the shaft. This plant will then have a capacity of 5,000 gallons per minute.

At the Union Mining Company's No. 1 mine a new and extensive dump has been erected, which greatly increases the facilities there for loading box cars for western shipment, in addition to the run of mine coal shipped east. A new and commodious weigh office also has been built below the location of the old one, thus giving more track room below the dump.

The rate of wages has remained the same, as also the amicable relations between the companies and their employees. There were some indications of an effort here last summer to enlist our miners in a movement in conjunction with the strike in the Pittsburg region, but it failed, as our people realized that the two districts are distinctly separate, non-competitive and, therefore, there is nothing in common between them. The miners here are to be congratulated upon this outcome of their good judgment, and it is to be hoped that in the future, in all matters of disagreement, that they will be guided by their own best counsel. This course is far safer than to give audience to the pleadings of visiting agitators, who have no interest in their welfare nor that of the region.

At all times, there are numbers of men, from other regions, soliciting work, and here I feel that I should repeat in substance a portion of my former report, namely: that in the employment of additional force the companies should give preference to known residents, and their sons, who have been born and reared in the region.

During the year the Manor and the Atlantic & Georges Creek Coal Companies' mines have been abandoned, having been worked out.

The shipments of coal by the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal aggregated 263,458 tons and 11 cwt., a decrease of 100,000 tons as compared with the year before.

SEMI-MONTHLY PAY LAW.

My report last year incurred some adverse criticism on account of the statements made concerning benefits of the semi-monthly pay law of 1896. This was indulged principally by people not interested in mines, mining, nor miners. I deem it my privilege to say now, however, that I was then speaking more specifically of the miners than of the general public, and in that sense I cannot yet see that the operations of the law have made much difference. But as it seems to be expected by many critics that I should speak for all concerned, directly and indirectly, I am free to say that the obedience given by the companies to the enactment is on the whole beneficial. The companies are perfectly satisfied with the semi-monthly pay bill, have cheerfully complied with all its provisions and desire to do all that can be done to benefit the miners. For my own part I have no prejudice in the matter whatever. I have not been and am not now opposed to the law. I will close this subject by expressing the opinion that if the miners were left to discuss among themselves this and kindred questions concerning their welfare, I doubt whether so much complaint as is frequently represented would be heard from them.

From what I have observed there is nothing in the way of legislation that appears to me to be necessary for the better management of the mines. It is to the best interest of both companies and men that the mines be equipped and kept in as nearly perfect order as human skill can devise and human care provide. It is just as true of a mine as of a locomotive to accomplish the best results it must be kept in the best possible condition.

Very respectfully,

OTTO HOHNG,

Inspector of Mines.

P. O. ADDRESS OF SUPERINTENDENTS.

Consolidation Coal Company, B. S. Randolph, Frostburg, Md.
 American Coal Company, J. H. Parrott, Lonaconing, Md.
 Borden Mining Company, D. Armstrong, Frostburg, Md.
 Maryland Coal Company, F. E. Brackett, Lonaconing, Md.
 New Central Coal Company, Duncan Sinclair, Midlothian, Md.
 Georges Creek Coal & Iron Co. R. L. Somerville, Lonaconing, Md.
 Union Mining Company, W. B. Redgrave, Frostburg, Md.
 New York Mining Company, W. B. Redgrave, Frostburg, Md.
 Barton & Georges Creek V. C. Co., A. E. Hitchins, Frostburg Md.
 Potomac Coal Co. John Sheridan, Mount Savage, Md.
 Davis Coal & Coke Company, O. Tibbets, Piedmont, W. Va.
 Big Vein Coal Company, A. C. Rawlings, Midland, Md.
 Piedmont & Cumberland Coal Co., T. Rafferty, Piedmont, W. Va.
 Pattison Mining Company, C. C. Pattison, Bloomington, Md.
 A. J. Merrill Coal Company, A. J. Merrill, Piedmont, W. Va.
 Manor Big Vein Company,
 Barton Mining Company, Malcolm Sinclair, Cumberland, Md.
 Atlantic & Georges Creek Coal Company,

OPERATIONS OF COMPANIES FOR 1897.

Name of Company.	Production.	No. of men employed.
Consolidation Coal Co.	1,210,238.12	1400
American Coal Co.	475,964.15	406
Borden Mining Co.	163,891.12	150
Maryland Coal Co.	371,233.17	447
New Central Coal Co.	206,262.07	187
Georges Creek C. & I. Co.	493,387.19	500
Union Mining Co.	215,525.11	168
New York Mining Co.	181,679.06	210
Barton and Georges C. V. C. Co.	250,182.10	255
Potomac Coal Co.	74,413	115
Davis Coal & Coke Co.	103,550.14	119
Big Vein Coal Co.	61,803.19	67
Piedmont & Cumberland C. Co.	26,949.15	30
Pattison Mining Co.	21,241.	42
Manor Big Vein Co.	49,799. ✓	60
Barton Mining Co.	24,790.16	50
Atlantic & Georges C. C. Co.	7,310	40
Total	3,939,224.13	4276

LIST OF FATAL ACCIDENTS.

Name.	Where employed.	Cause of death.
Peter Yeager,	New York Mining Co.	Fall of breast coal, Sept. 7, 1897.
Harry Graney,	Consolidation C. Co. Ocean No. 1.	Fall of breast & roof coal Sept. 14, died in Hospital 2 months after.
Henry Royce,	Ocean No. 7.	Fall of roof coal, Sept. 25, 1897.
David Owens,	Ocean No. 7.	Struck by bench prop Sept. 28, 1897, died on October 2, 1897.
Frank Strother	Ocean No. 1 Not employed by this Co.	Fall of roof coal Nov. 18, 1897, died Nov. 19, 1897.

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